

Last week I had the opportunity to travel around the 12th District, meeting with folks from all over and hearing what was on their minds.



Folks from across the district came out for my annual Rural Listening Tour, which included meetings in Candler, Emanuel, Evans, Glascock, Jefferson, Screven, Tattnall, Treutlen, and Warren Counties. I also stopped to tour local farms and meet with some of our local small businesses in Bulloch, Burke, Jenkins, Toombs, and Washington Counties.

Without question, the number one issue on everyone's mind was getting our nation's fiscal house in order. Our country can no longer afford to spend beyond its means. Families throughout Georgia have had to tighten their belts and make tough choices about their spending. It's time Washington follows their example and does the same thing.

But we simply can't cut for cutting's sake. Many of the agriculture programs in our district that rely on federal assistance are not contributing to the national debt, and they contribute a great deal to our local economy. We need to be smart about spending cuts. We need to cut

programs that don't work while preserving programs that do. That's the message I heard all over the district, and that's the message I'm taking to Washington as we work to finalize the nation's budget for the next fiscal year.



If you weren't able to make it out for the 2011 Rural Listening Tour, I still want to hear what's on your mind. There's a lot of work for Washington to do this year, and as debates heat up and new bills are brought forward, it's important for me to hear from you. I'm just a phone call or an email away. You can always visit me at www.barrow.house.gov or call me, toll free, at 1-866-890-6236.

Your friend,

John Barrow